Chaos Muppets.

NEED NOT APPLY

a zine about dating apps

This title has:

- Too much sex
- #! Too much swearing
- Too much drinking/drugs/smoking

murphyao ink
may 2026

Once upon a time, circa 2002, I went as my grandma's plus-one to a wedding. The bride & groom had met in the early days of internet dating (circa 1995?), on what was then known as the World Wide Web. The lady in question had put up an online profile for less than 24 hours because when her mom heard that she was putting up a profile on the 'Net, she was like "take that down immediately! The World Wide Web is full of creeps!" But in that 24-hour period, one guy had emailed her, and the rest was history! Or a mystery to me because I don't remember the names of anyone involved. I was just there to keep my grandma company.

There are, of course, other magical happily ever after stories about people meeting on apps & moving in together & getting married & having babies (or magical happy stories where consenting adults find each other & have a wonderful run without all the trappings of domesticity, or variations thereupon), but I am not here for that!

I am here for hot gossip and hot gossip only. So, in true Cheryl Sandberg spirit, let's lean in!

On one app, a man's profile says "I'm 63, but my age does not define me. Seeking younger women only."

Bruh.

Come the fuck on.

Super obvious double standard much?!

(To be clear,
I am not ageist,
but this guy sure is!)

One friend shared her most memorable dating experience: A dinner conversation about humanoid reptilian lizards taking over the world, a theory proven by the evidence that Obama blinks, followed by the man closing out their conversation with "Oh, I told you that I'm married, right?"

A true gem.

With those delightful anecdotes out of the way, let's get into the most essential dating advice:

- "Watch out who your baby daddy is" is ~~free~~ paid advice from a therapist

- "I had to kiss a hundred frogs before I found my frog" is free advice from a friend

- "Your time is precious. Don't waste it." is more excellent advice from another friend

- "There has got to be someone out there who doesn't suck" is some commiseration from yet another fine friend

“There are plenty of other fish in the sea.” – my sixth grade teacher at a Catholic grammar school, inexplicably

In the words of my mom, “What is wrong with these people?!”

And of course, Christmas wouldn’t be Christmas without sharing some Agony Aunts to help you through it all:

Captain Awkward offers excellent dating advice on her blog. I think she calls herself , aptly, the doula of breakups.

Rebecca Woolf writes “Sex & The Single Mom” over at Romper. (h/t HP)

In conclusion, stay safe out there – or just stay home with your friends and complain about this stuff! The greatest mental health exercise possible.

And remember:

Solidarity forever.